

BEAUTY'S COSTUME:

A

SERIES OF FEMALE FIGURES

IN THE

DRESSES OF ALL TIMES AND NATIONS.

CONTAINING

TWELVE ENGRAVINGS BY THE FIRST ARTISTS.

EXECUTED UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCE OF

MR. CHARLES HEATH.

WITH ORIGINAL DESCRIPTIONS,

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Queen Tyti in Prison



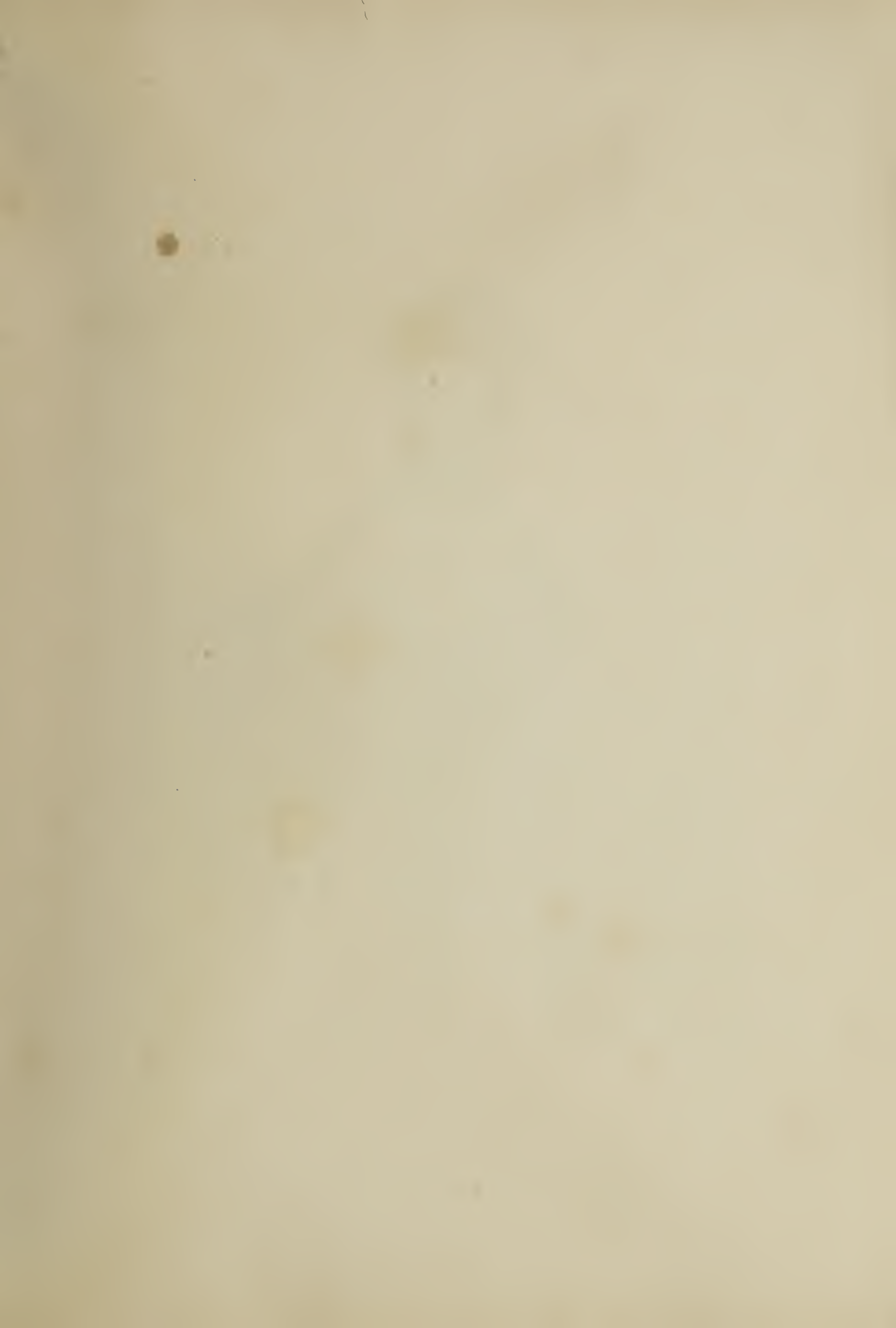
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ANCIENT EGYPTIAN COSTUME.

HOWEVER numerous may be the varieties of female dress, they all resolve into a few simple elements. The tunic was the earliest garb of civilization, replacing the coverings made of the skins of wild beasts ; and to this came to be superadded first one form of mantle, and then another, with the oriental veil. From these proceed the thousand shapes of Fashion ; including even most of the additions demanded by climate, after the human race had become enervated by the progress of luxury.

In this very curious print, the costume of which was faithfully copied from the case of a mummy, we behold, it is supposed, a daughter of one of the Pharaohs. The loose tunic, it will be observed, is not clasped on both shoulders, in the manner of the more modern Greeks, but hangs upon one shoulder, leaving the opposite side of the bust exposed. This continues to be the case in Hindostan at the present day ; and it affords a corroboratory proof of the connexion which is supposed by the learned to have existed between the nations of India and the ancient Egyptians.

The singular and gorgeous head-dress is peculiar to Egypt ; and yet is somewhat similar in effect to the short veil worn by the Syrian women. The profusion of “jewels of silver and jewels of gold” was *fashionable* so early as the Captivity, as we read in the book of Exodus ; and the fondness of the Israelites afterwards—described by Isaiah and Ezekiel—for this species of ornament was in all probability acquired in the House of Bondage.







Portrait of the late Mrs. Goussier

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N^o. II.

AN ANCIENT SCOTTISH COSTUME.

HAD this not been copied from a good French authority, one might suppose it to be a costume of our own day. The sleeve of the pelisse, with its pendants, would pass muster any forenoon in Regent Street ; although it must be confessed that the cincture becomes better the character of a loose dress than our modern band.

The head-gear is in a form which was imitated by the lovely Queen of Scots ; and which, in our simple opinion, sets off a pretty face, and improves a plain one. It is probably of velvet, since the wrought caps, or bonnets, were not introduced till the time of Elizabeth.



F. P. Stepanoff

H. Robinson.

L. Arabick Summer

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Nº. III.

TURKISH COSTUME.

We find the ancient tunic here converted into a *Saday*, or vest, and the mantle into an open Kaftan. The latter garment, if belonging to the ladies of the seraglio, was of wrought silk ; and the vest, or apron, which sometimes concealed it, of silk, or muslin, finely wrought in the Moorish manner. Under these were worn, by all classes indiscriminately, drawers descending to the ancle. They were of silk, or fine linen, in the seraglio, although concealed by the vest, and their length rendered stockings unnecessary in such a climate. The mantle had usually false sleeves, although not in the instance before us ; and these hung down behind, or were tucked in beneath the girdle. The sandals were of crimson velvet, raised on four high pegs, and fastened to the feet by a band studded with jewels. The turban was formed of a silk kerchief, adorned with needle-work of different colours ; and sometimes was surmounted by a cap with a high crown, either of velvet, or gold or silver stuff.

Thus was arrayed a lady of the seraglio in 1578, whose portrait is preserved ; and but little change, it is to be presumed, has taken place since. The fair Turks, like most other Eastern women, are satisfied with the fashions of their ancestors ; although the fairer daughters of the west, in their endless search after novelty, do not hesitate to borrow sometimes from their unchanging stores.



Edward Carbould

H. B. Hall

Portrait of the Countess of Arundel

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N^o. IV.

COSTUME OF THE COURT OF LOUIS XII.

IN this costume we have the large sleeves of the modern cloak, lined with a different colour, and fastened on the shoulder with an agraffe, in the manner of the tunic of the ancients. The necklace, the bracelets, the jewel on the forehead, all belong to our own time as well as to the sixteenth century.

The veil, fastened to the head-dress, and falling down behind, is an adjunct to the effect of beauty which it is surprising our country-women should not think of reviving in some shape or other. In the fifteenth century, it streamed from the end of the long conical cap then worn, with a “high-fantastic” effect; and, at the present day, it is used in the court-dress of St. Petersburg with great advantage.



J. Jenkins.

H. Cook

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Nº. V.

BERNESE COSTUME.

THE Swiss costumes would require a volume to themselves ; and, indeed, they have already received more than one. It is curious that the peasants of this little federation, perched on almost inaccessible mountains, should be the best dressed peasantry in Europe : but the fact is so. Each canton, and sometimes each district in a canton, has its own peculiar costume : and generally speaking, the natural taste this costume exhibits, is not less striking than the pertinacity with which the people cling to it.

Even this vast variety, however, becomes very simple, when traced to its elements ; for in reality the whole of the distinctions are but modifications of the head-dress and boddice. In the specimen before us, the latter is richly ornamented, and well relieved by the loose white sleeves of the under-dress.



K. Meadows.

H. Austin

Queen of the South

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N^o. VI.

MILANESE COSTUME.

THIS costume calls for little observation ; although the tiara, which, in one form or other, is common to different parts of Europe, is sufficiently remarkable. The fine linen or cambric garment, visible higher than the breast of the gown, was first displayed in this manner, when to wear such garments was a distinction. Ladies were then proud of exhibiting an article of dress which the ultra-refinement, or, in other words, the affectation of the present day permits them to show, but makes them coy of naming ; and history records the extravagance of Isabella of Bavaria in possessing, *in fine linen*, no fewer than two —CHEMISES !

The ladies of Milan, it may be remarked, have lost their identity in the crowd of their visitors. Milan is now a city, not of Italy, but of Europe ; and is the resort of the gay, the fair, and the fashionable from all points of the compass.

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N^o. VII.

RUSSIAN COURT DRESS.

THIS dignified and graceful costume, the national dress of Russia, was introduced at court by the present empress. It consists of a chemise with white sleeves, and a sarafan, or robe without sleeves. The head dress is a lofty crown, ornamented with pearls and jewels, from which hangs a large transparent veil, sometimes streaming behind, and sometimes, as in the specimen before us, covering both shoulders. From the latter circumstance we presume the lady to be a matron.

The peasant girls of Great Russia, as well as the court ladies, wear the sarafan, finely relieved by the snowy sleeves of the chemise ; but, by a strange perversity of taste, the girdle with them (although their waist is not much too short) is *above* the bosom. On holidays, they display over all a short silk mantle, sometimes bordered with fur, or down ; and for ear-rings, instead of the large, imitative drops before us, they wear small real pearls, strung in a triangular form.



J. B. R. Gould.

J. H. M.

Woman of the Field

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N^o. VIII.

COSTUME OF THE ENGLISH PEASANTRY.

SIMPLICITY is the prevailing characteristic of the English peasant girls' dress. No striking contrasts are here observable—no national peculiarities, unless it be the absence of all peculiarity; and yet there is a unity of expression about the whole figure which preserves its individuality. The French of the different provinces have their different and strongly distinguished caps, the Swiss their caps and boddices, the Dutch their plates of gold ornamenting the head like the trinkets of savages, the Danes their gold-laced hats; every nation has its own fashion, to which the people cling as to a religion, and which separates them broadly from their neighbours.

But the English girl has no such distinctions. Sometimes she is clothed in the manner we see before us; sometimes in a gown not greatly different from that of her mistress. On her shoulders there is a shawl, or kerchief; on her head a plain lapped cap, with a narrow frill;—but for all that, there is no mistaking her for a moment. She is still discovered, at a single glance, to be an English peasant girl; and, without any exception, the handsomest peasant girl in Europe.



K. Meadows.

H. Robinson

Miss Mary F. Sumner

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N^o. IX.

A SWISS COSTUME.

THIS is another Swiss costume, wholly and strikingly different from the former ; although, on examination, we find that the distinction is mainly caused by the one figure having a hat, and the other a cap. This will serve as an illustration of our remark in the fifth article.



Edvard Corbould.

J. Jackson.

Portrait of the Countess of ...

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N^o. X.

COSTUME OF THE COURT OF CHARLES VII.

THIS superb head-dress, bordered with fleurs-de-lys, is worthy of the court of one of the most gallant of the French princes. The figure, however, if the lady stood erect, would be too much *au naturel* to please the taste of the present day. In this reign, it was the fashion to exhibit clearly the proportions ; and, with the same view, the modern riding-habit was invented, with skirts as long, but not so full, as those of our century. The same mode prevailed, to some extent, with the men ; and, in the following reign, we find the chronicler, Monstrelet, complaining that they “wore dresses made so as to exhibit their form, after the fashion in which people were wont to dress monkeys, which was a very impudent and indecent thing.” The men, however, were always less poetical than the women. At this moment our dress is the short Gothic garb, although no longer necessary for military purposes ; while the flowing robes of the ladies are modifications of the classical costumes of ancient Greece and Italy.



F.P. Stepanoff.

Jackson.

Persian Costume

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N^o. XI.

PERSIAN COSTUME.

THE Persians are said to have imitated the Egyptians ; but, except perhaps in the veil or head-dress of this figure, in which some slight analogy may be traced with that of the daughter of Pharaoh, there is no similarity observable. The costume before us, however, may be relied upon as correct, since it was taken from an original portrait by a Persian artist.

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J. J. Jenkins

W. Hewitt

Miss F. J. Jenkins

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N^o. XII.

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND COSTUME.

“ A CHIEFTAIN’S daughter seem’d the maid !”—

but not—

“ Her satin snood, her silken plaid,
Her golden broach, such birth betray’d :”—

in the present instance, there is only the eagle’s feather in her tartan turban which can assert the damsel’s highland nobility.

